

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 213387
ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

DRAFTED BY TEXT RECEIVED FROM WHITE HOUSE
APPROVED BY NEA - ALFRED L. ATHERTON, JR.
S/S-0 - B. PERITO

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
INFO WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 213387

NODIS
FOR THE AMBASSADOR WHITE HOUSE FOR BRZEZINSKI

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: PDIP, US, SY

SUBJECT: LETTER FROM PRESIDENT CARTER TO PRESIDENT ASSAD

1. AMBASSADOR IS REQUESTED TO CONVEY FOLLOWING LETTER TO
PRESIDENT ASSAD FROM PRESIDENT CARTER. SIGNED ORIGINAL
FOLLOWS BY POUCH.

2. BEGIN TEXT:

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT:

I HAVE DECIDED TO WRITE TO YOU DIRECTLY BECAUSE I FEEL THAT
WE ARE APPROACHING A CRITICAL PERIOD IN THE SEARCH FOR A
PEACEFUL RESOLUTION OF THE ARAB-ISRAELI CONFLICT. OVER THE
NEXT SEVERAL WEEKS, I WILL BE DEVOTING A GREAT DEAL OF MY
TIME, AS WILL MEMBERS OF MY ADMINISTRATION, TO ESTABLISHING
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THE BASIS FOR RECONVENING THE GENEVA CONFERENCE LATER THIS
YEAR. I PARTICULARLY LOOK FORWARD TO MEETING AGAIN WITH
FOREIGN MINISTER KHADDAM IN WASHINGTON LATER THIS MONTH.

WHILE I WOULD HAVE HOPED THAT MORE PROGRESS COULD HAVE BEEN
MADE BY THIS TIME IN RESOLVING DIFFERENCES AMONG THE PARTIES,
I AM NOT DISCOURAGED. YOU CAN BE ASSURED THAT MY OWN

PERSONAL COMMITMENT TO USING THE FULL RESOURCES OF MY

OFFICE TO PROMOTE A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT IN THE MIDDLE EAST HAS NOT WAVERED. THE POSITIONS THAT I OUTLINED TO YOU DURING OUR MEETING IN GENEVA REMAIN THE BASIS FOR OUR POLICY.

IN MY VIEW, THE TIME HAS COME TO MOVE FROM THOSE GENERALITIES AND BROAD PRINCIPLES TOWARD GREATER CONCRETENESS. THIS WILL HELP TO INITIATE A NEGOTIATING PROCESS AND WILL CREATE A CONTEXT IN WHICH AMERICAN INFLUENCE CAN BE USED CONSTRUCTIVELY. I HOPE THAT YOU WILL BE ABLE TO HELP US MOVE IN THIS DIRECTION BY PROVIDING A DETAILED STATEMENT OF THE PROVISIONS OF A PEACE AGREEMENT AS YOU SEE IT.

IN ORDER TO RECONVENE THE GENEVA CONFERENCE THIS YEAR, A SOLUTION MUST SOON BE FOUND TO INSURE REPRESENTATION OF THE PALESTINIANS IN THE PEACE NEGOTIATIONS. SECRETARY VANCE HAS REVIEWED WITH YOU SEVERAL POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVES. LET ME EMPHASIZE THAT THE UNITED STATES DOES WANT THE PALESTINIANS TO BE INVOLVED IN THE SEARCH FOR PEACE. NO SETTLEMENT OF THE CONFLICT CAN BE ACHIEVED WITHOUT THEIR PARTICIPATION. WE CANNOT, OF COURSE, GUARANTEE PRECISELY HOW PALESTINIAN CONCERNS WILL BE MET IN THE NEGOTIATIONS, BUT I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT MY GOVERNMENT DOES BELIEVE
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THAT PALESTINIANS SHOULD BE REPRESENTED AT GENEVA AND SHOULD PARTICIPATE IN SHAPING THEIR OWN FUTURE IN CONFORMITY WITH THE PRINCIPLES OF UN RESOLUTION 242 AND OF SELF-DETERMINATION.

AS YOU KNOW, THE UNITED STATES WOULD BE PREPARED TO ENTER INTO OFFICIAL CONTACTS WITH THE PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION IF THE PLO WERE TO ACCEPT UN RESOLUTION 242, WITH AN APPROPRIATE RESERVATION AS SECRETARY VANCE INDICATED TO YOU AND FOREIGN MINISTER KHADDAM. YOU WERE THE FIRST ARAB LEADER WITH WHOM I DISCUSSED THIS IDEA, AND I CONTINUE TO LOOK TO YOUR LEADERSHIP TO HELP PERSUADE THE PLO TO TAKE THIS IMPORTANT STEP. ALL OF THE OTHER PARTICIPANTS IN THE GENEVA CONFERENCE HAVE SUBSCRIBED TO UN RESOLUTION 242, AND IT IS HARD TO SEE HOW PALESTINIANS CAN BE DIRECTLY REPRESENTED AT GENEVA UNLESS THE PLO ALSO ACCEPTS THE ONLY AGREED UPON FRAMEWORK FOR NEGOTIATIONS.

I BELIEVE THAT THE TIME HAS COME FOR ALL PARTIES, INCLUDING THE PALESTINIANS, TO COMMIT THEMSELVES FULLY TO THE SEARCH FOR PEACE. THE ALTERNATIVE OF STALEMATE AND CONTINUING HOSTILITY OFFERS LITTLE HOPE TO THE PEOPLES OF THE MIDDLE

EAST. IF THE PALESTINIANS DO DECIDE TO ASSOCIATE
THEMSELVES WITH THE PEACEMAKING PROCESS, THEY CAN BE SURE
THAT THEIR VIEWS WILL RECEIVE A FULL HEARING AT GENEVA

AND IN BILATERAL TALKS WITH MY GOVERNMENT. AS I HAVE
MADE CLEAR IN MY PUBLIC STATEMENTS, I AM NOT UNSYMPATHETIC
TO LEGITIMATE PALESTINIAN ASPIRATIONS, AND I AM DEEPLY
AWARE OF THE CENTRAL CONCERN OF ALL ARAB LEADERS THAT
PALESTINIAN RIGHTS BE RESPECTED.

MR. PRESIDENT, I RECALL WITH PLEASURE OUR MEETING IN
GENEVA. IN THE SPIRIT OF FRIENDSHIP THAT LINKS OUR
TWO COUNTRIES, I HOPE THAT WE WILL CONTINUE TO WORK CLOSELY
TOGETHER IN PURSUIT OF OUR COMMON GOAL OF A JUST AND
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LASTING PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

SINCERELY,

JIMMY CARTER

END TEXT. VANCE

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TEXT, POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS, PEACE TALKS, CAT-A
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 07-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE213387
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: FOR THE AMBASSADOR, WHITE HOUSE FOR BRZEZINSKI
Executive Order: X3
Errors: n/a
Expiration:
Film Number: P840070-1016, P800020-0055
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770990/aaaacxyg.tel
Line Count: 143
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 2f3a4a4b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY, NODIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1363293
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CHANGED> GWR 20040429
Subject: LETTER FROM PRESIDENT CARTER TO PRESIDENT ASSAD
TAGS: PDIP, US, SY, (CARTER, JIMMY), (ASAD, HAFIZ AL)
To: DAMASCUS WHITE HOUSE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/2f3a4a4b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009